



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

April 2022 Newsletter

Upcoming Meetings:

May 13: Dr. Bob Leamon, of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, and Dr. Scott McIntosh, of the National Center for Atmospheric Research, will discuss how they applied a mathematical technique used by Earth scientists to analyze cyclic phenomena, such as the ebb and flow of ocean tides to the confounding irregularity of cycles on the sun. This new technique has caused them to go against the norm and predict that solar cycle 25 will be bigger than cycle 24. This presentation is not to be missed, and will take place via Zoom.

June 10: Annual Auction, **at Salvation Army EDS, 4020 Georgetown Road, 46254**

Highlights from the April Meeting:

Tonight's meeting was held at the Salvation Army EDS Facility, and was called to order at 7:34 by club president David Spoelstra, N9KT. There were 26 in attendance. There were no new or upgraded hams present. There were 2 guests present: Mark McCullough, who is planning on testing at Hamvention, and Phil Hudson, KD9HRS, who is planning on getting more active in the hobby since retiring.

David asked that if anyone has any ideas for program topics, to email him at president@indyradioclub.org.

David said that Brent, N9BA, still needs more ham volunteers for the Mini-Marathon. Contact Brent at bwalls@arrl.net if available.

Upcoming events:

The Indiana QSO Party, on Saturday May 7, 11:00 am to 11:00 pm. *[See more later in this newsletter.]*

W9IMS will be on the air for their first event of the season from May 8 through May 14. Field Day will be on June 25 and 26. The IRC will once again be teaming with the Indy United clubs.

There was sufficient interest shown in a summer picnic to warrant scheduling one. The Club will pay for the meat, and the rest will be “pitch in”. Kevin Colbert, KD9MNB, will secure a location. *[See more later in this newsletter.]*

There was a good show of hands for a Christmas party, so we will explore further.

The May meeting will be on Zoom. It will feature a couple of Solar physicists that predicted Cycle 25 will be huge. They may win a Nobel prize if it comes to fruition!

The June meeting will be our auction, and will be held at the Salvation Army EDS Facility. If you have GOOD gear (not junk) to be auctioned, bring it to the June meeting, and if you are interested in acquiring some “new to you” gear, bring your money!

Tonight’s door prize of a year’s subscription to the “Weekly DX” was won by David, N9KT!

Next, David introduced the evening’s speaker, Jeff Hammer, N9NIC, for a presentation on “RadioActivity”. Jeff explained that he is encouraging hams to maintain an active lifestyle by taking part in activities such as hiking, biking, canoeing. Jeff went over things to be prepared for, and how he prepares his gear for the task. He said one has to take into consideration sometime extreme operating conditions such as temperature and vibration when planning power and antenna options for different activities. He said when considering what battery to use, he has to plan on how long he is planning to operate. Mike Sercer, WA9FDO, suggested <https://batteryhookup.com/> as a good source for batteries. Jeff said a charge controller is needed to manage charging of batteries. Jeff said when planning on operating while hiking to prepare for the hike first. He said that an antenna mast on a back pack can be a challenge dealing with low limbs and such. He uses a vinyl Christmas tree hanging pole as his back pack mast. Jeff recommends ham sticks for bicycle use. He noted that he has canoe antenna tuning issues. Tony Rice,

KB9EKA, mentioned that this change with movement in the water could be due to differences in the capacitance of the water.

After Jeff completed his presentation on RadioActivity, he talked about the Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air event. The event runs June 4 through 19, and is sponsored by the Clark County (WA) radio club. The event covers 16 states. In Indiana, the Tri-State Club in Evansville is the host. As the event gets closer, there will be a schedule posted. More information will be available at <https://lctota.org/>. Jeff plans to camp at the site of the Clark Homestead in the Falls of the Ohio State Park June 5 through 11. W9WWI will be the call sign used. Jeff is looking for more operators from the IRC to come down and join in the fun.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45.



Jeff Hammer, N9NIC, explaining some techniques he uses when biking with radio.

photo courtesy of Jim Brown, WORLD

Ham Radio News:

2022 CLUB DUES ARE DUE, AND PAYABLE VIA PAYPAL NOW!

Club Dues are receivable at any time. Individual dues are \$20 per year, or Family dues are \$30 per year (all family members need to live in the same household). Dues can be paid with PayPal at treasurer@indyradioclub.org. Be sure to send the payment as a “friend”, **not for** “goods and services”. This will prevent any fees being assessed to the payment. For those that don’t have a PayPal account, you can send a check made out to “Indianapolis Radio Club” to Ken Bandy, 7405 E. County Road 900 N, Brownsburg, IN 46112.

As an added incentive for membership in the club, at in-person meetings, we will have periodic door prize drawings for items such as gift certificates for equipment vendors, and such. Only up to date members present at that meeting will be eligible for these drawings. To check your membership status, point your browser to <https://tinyurl.com/radio-club-members>

IRC CLUB MEMBER JIM BROWN, W0RLD, ON HAM NATION

Jim was interviewed on Ham Nation about a course he is doing this summer on Amateur Radio and Scouting at Philmont Training Center in New Mexico. IRC club president, David Spoelstra, N9KT, and the club were mentioned as David is helping Jim with the course. More information on the course is available at <https://radioscouting.website/>

The episode of Ham Nation is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1ETWTdA2jA> Jim’s interview starts at about 26:56.

INDIANA QSO PARTY NEXT MONTH!

Saturday May 7th 11:00 AM EDT to 11:00 PM EDT is the Indiana QSO Party. The INQP is part of the 4QP weekend. In addition to Indiana, the 7th call area QSO Party (7QP), the New England QSO Party (NEQP), and Delaware QSO Party (DEQP) will be on the air. That means there will be a total of 16 states in QSO parties that weekend! To say the airwaves will be busy is an understatement. Last year, a program was started to get “rare” counties on the air. This year, there are 10 counties designated as rare. As of the writing of this newsletter, 4 of those counties still have no one activating them according to the planned activity map at <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/activity.php>. Those 4 counties are Rush, Randolph, Dearborn, and Switzerland. If you know a General class or above operator in one of those counties, give them a call and encourage them to get on the air for the INQP. Better yet, plan a portable or mobile operation to one of those counties yourself. It’s lots of fun to be the “DX”! If you are planning on operating in the

INQP, regardless of your location, send your plans to [Tim Gennett, K9WX](#) so he can “get you on the map”. The rules for the INQP can be found at <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html>.

Also, don't forget about the Worked All Indiana award. The basic certificate only requires confirming 60 of the 92 Indiana counties. The Worked All Indiana award rules can be found at <http://www.hdxcc.org/wai/index.html>.

CHANGES TO ARRL WEBSITE CAUSE CONSTERNATION

After a major behind the scenes change to the ARRL website, that requires members to re-register to the site, many were having problems with getting signed up on the new website. Following is what was sent out in the April 1st edition of *The ARRL Letter*:

“Follow these steps to sign in and access ARRL features and services: Go to arrrl.org and click "Login" which will redirect you to "Register" (please note, even if you have an ARRL account you will need to register).

To register, enter the main e-mail address we have on file and click "Next." You will be prompted to create a user name and new password. Your password must contain at least eight characters, a number, an uppercase letter, a lowercase letter, and a non-alphanumeric character.

If you receive an e-mail verification one-time password request instead, you will receive an e-mail from Personify Identity Provider. Enter the one-time password, which will default your user name to the e-mail you used and prompt you to enter a new password twice. Click "Next."

This will log you in to arrrl.org, which now allows you to renew, donate, and shop all in one transaction.

If you need help, we're here for you. Call us *[at 1-888-277-5289]* Monday - Thursday from 8 am - 7 pm (ET) and on Friday from 8 am - 5 pm (ET) or e-mail us at membership@arrrl.org.”

IRC SUMMER PICNIC RETURNING IN JULY!

Put July 23 on your calendar for the return of the Indianapolis Radio Club's summer picnic! Thanks to the work of Kevin Colbert, KD9MNB, a shelter at Sahm Park has been

reserved for that date. Tentative plans call for the IRC to supply burgers and dogs. Watch the IRCNews reflector for more details as they are finalized!

NO INDY HAMFEST FOR 2022

Following is the text from a PDF letter dated April 4, 2022 by General Chairman of the Indy Hamfest, Mike Sercer, WA9FDO:

“Greetings,

I wanted to take an opportunity to express sincere thanks from all of the Indianapolis Hamfest staff to everyone who has supported our show for the past 50 years. Without your support we would have died years ago.

As many of you may know, much of our staff have been around for many decades, perhaps too many decades. Most of the current staff members are on the other side of 70 years old and felt it was time to pass the baton. To that end, in 2019 a campaign was started in an attempt to recruit new members. There were no takers except one. Andy Swanson, KC9SKV felt very strongly that the hamfest should go on. He made a valiant attempt to recruit others to help continue the show, but He too found that everyone wants it, but no one wants to be involved.

So, it is with great regret that at this time there will be NO Indianapolis Hamfest in 2022. Is it possible that the hamfest will return in 2023? At this time there is no firm plan in place. We realize that we may well lose our place in the hamfest circuit, but unfortunately this is our loss.

In closing, thank you to the major vendors for your many years of support and we wish you the very best for your future. Until we meet again.”

MORE INFO ON NEW FCC APPLICATION FEE, STARTS 4/19

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) staff has clarified in response to an ARRL request that the new \$35 application fee will not apply to most license modifications, including those to upgrade amateur radio licensee's operator class and changes to club station trustees. The FCC staff explained that the new fees will apply only to applications for a new license, renewal, rule waiver, or a new vanity call sign. As previously announced, the new fees take effect on April 19, 2022.

"We are pleased that the FCC will not charge licensees the FCC application fee for license upgrade applications," said ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. "While applicants for a new license will need to pay the \$35 FCC application fee, there will be no FCC charge for future upgrades and administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address. Most current licensees, therefore, will not be charged the new FCC application fee until they renew their license or apply for a new vanity call sign."

ARRL previously reported that the new \$35 application fee for amateur radio licenses will become effective on April 19, 2022. Further information and instructions about the FCC Application Fee are available from the ARRL VEC page at, <https://www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fee> .

CHANGES IN MONTHLY INDIANA ARES HF NET

Following is a portion of a notice sent out by Indiana Section Emergency Coordinator, Jim Moehring, KB9WWM:

"Some changes have been made to the Sunday Indiana ARES HF Net for the summer months.

We have moved the Net from 75 meters (3,900 MHz) to 40 meters (7.272+/-). On 75 meters there was significant noise prohibiting reliable contacts throughout the state. On 40 meters we have had very good luck hearing stations and being heard throughout the state. As a result we will use 40 meters through the summer months. When we return to Standard Time we will return to 75 Meters.

Also, the 7.272 frequency has been occupied the last couple of Sundays so we have moved up to 7.275 MHz. Look for us at or near that frequency."

NEWS AND INFO "SHORTS"

There are several email reflectors available from the ARRL. A listing of these can be found at <https://groups.arrl.org/g/ARRL-Groups/subgroups>

I recently came upon a great resource for county hunters or anyone that operates portable and wants to accurately log the county in which they are operating:

<http://www.mob-rule.com/gmap>

For anyone living in, or that wants to monitor severe weather from, Hendricks County, their Sky-Warn nets will be conducted on the 147.015MHz, N9HC repeater, not the 147.165 repeater, as has been used the last few years.

UPCOMING CENTRAL INDIANA TESTING SESSIONS (check with sponsor before planning to attend)

Noblesville IN 46060-1624

Sponsor: Central Indiana ARA

Date: Apr 16 2022

Time: 10:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

Contact: Joseph March

(317) 224-9433

Email: jmarch54@att.net

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Hamilton Cty Emer Operations Ctr

18100 Cumberland Rd

Sheriff's Campus Training Room

CALL AHEAD

Noblesville IN 46060-1624

Columbus IN 47201-7477

Sponsor: SCICSG

Date: Apr 19 2022

Time: 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: Michael D. Tanksley

(812) 350-5175

Email: kd9eau@gmail.com

VEC: LAUREL VEC

Location: Columbus Twp. Fire & Rescue

935 Repp Dr

Columbus IN 47201-7477

Greenfield IN 46140-9654
Sponsor: Hancock County ARC
Date: Apr 30 2022
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: David Keiser
(317) 440-8486
Email: kc9urp@hrtc.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Hancock EMA EOC
640 South Franklin St
Greenfield IN 46140-9654

Bloomington IN 47401-5337
Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc
Date: May 07 2022
Time: 11:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: William F. Wootton
(812) 876-8689
Email: wfwootton@gmail.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: First United Church - Call or email ahead due to COVID-19
2420 E 3rd St
Register at 11:30am
Testing at 12 NOON
Bloomington IN 47401-5337

FEEL FREE TO SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER

If you belong to any other radio groups, please feel free to share our newsletter with them. They can also sign up to be on our mailing list by filling out the form available at http://mail.indyradioclub.org/mailman/listinfo/ircnews_indyradioclub.org.

SEND ME YOUR HAM RADIO NEWS

If anyone has any items for the newsletter, please send them to Ken Bandy at kj9b@arrl.net

Signals from the Past:

From the April May 1952 Ama-chewer:

The recent club program on Single Sideband Suppressed Carrier radio-telephony went over very well, despite a sort of poor turn-out that evening. Now our club's ex-president Bob Evans, W9FKX is on the air with 5 watts single side-band and works all around Indiana with that power and hopes to QRO in the very near future. Also, Dick Mays W9JAY out in Speedway is about ready to put a twenty watt single sideband transmitter on the 75 meter fone band.

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- Henry County Tailgate: Saturday, April 16, 8:00 am to noon at W G Smith Building at Memorial Park, 2221 N Memorial Drive New Castle. Go to <http://w9ob.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/tailgate-II-flyer.jpg> for details.
- Indiana QSO Party: Saturday, May 7. 11:00 am to 11:00 pm, Indianapolis time. See article earlier in this newsletter for details.
- ARRL - INDIANA STATE CONVENTION, North Central Indiana Hamfest: Saturday, May 7, 9:00 - 2:00 at Miami Co. Fairgrounds, 1029 W 200 N, Peru, IN. Click [here](#) for more info.
- Hamvention 2022: May 20 - 22, 2022 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center. Go to <https://hamvention.org/> for more info.

2022 Officers:

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – president@indyradioclub.org
- Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - vp@indyradioclub.org
- Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - secretary@indyradioclub.org
- Chief Operator: OPEN
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR - board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Kevin Colbert, KD9MNB - board@indyradioclub.org
- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org